

The S P E E C H of the Honourable PATRICK GORDON Esq; Lieutenant Governour of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA,

And Counties of *New-Castle, Kent and Sussex, upon Delaware.*

To the Representatives of the Freemen of the said Province of *Pennsylvania*, November 22d. 1726.

Mr Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

HAVING fully declared to the last Assembly, what I take to be incumbent on me, in the Discharge of my Trust; I shall now recommend to you such Matters relating to the Publick, as may be proper for your Consideration.

And in the first Place our Bills of Credit will claim your Regard: At your first Meeting in *October*, I acquainted you with a Letter, I had received but two Days before, from the Secretary to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, on the Subject of our *Paper-Currency*, which I now lay before you. By this Letter you will observe what Impressions the Conduct of some of these *American Colonies* had made on that Board, to the Disadvantage of such Bills: Yet notwithstanding their Dislike to them in general, They have express'd so much Tenderness for the People of this Province, who have now that *Currency* in their Hands, that we may, I hope, justly conclude the former Acts for establishing it are happily out of Danger of a Repeal. But as the *Act* past last Year, for the re-emitting part of the same Bills out of the *Loan-Office*, may be thought to interfere with their Lordships Directions; it will require our serious Application, to find out proper Measures for securing this equally with the other *Acts*; which 'tis hoped may be successfully effected, when their Lordships are duly apprized, that the Trade between *Britain* and this Province has been so far from Suffering, that it has been manifestly encreased since the Establishment of that *Currency* here, and that more *British Goods* have been imported, more Ships Built in this Place for their Merchants, than had been for many Years before: But more especially that this *Currency* instead of sinking in Value, which has been the great and chief Objection to it in some other Colonies, now actuallly rises with us, being at this Time at less than half the Discount, that, as I have been assured, it bore with *Gold and Silver*, but a few Months before

before my Arrival. When this is duly represented to their Lordships, I hope we shall have no Room to doubt, but they will abate in their Opinions of the ill Consequences of that *Currency*, especially in this Colony : And therefore seeing *Ten Thousand Pounds* of the Bills now in the People's Hands, subsist on the Foundation of the last *Act*, which was past before their Lordships Sentiments were made known to us, we may hope for their Indulgence to that also. To obtain which I shall very heartily joyn with you *Gentlemen*, in whatever shall be reasonably proposed.

I cannot but with great Pleasure take Notice on this Occasion, of the happy Prospect that this Province now affords, of supplying, by the Industry of it's Inhabitants, the want of those natural Advantages, that have attended divers of the *American Colonies* (in making Returns with their own Product directly for *Britain*) which in all Probability must in due Time introduce real Wealth, and a *Currency* of Intrinsic Value amongst us. Several Companies are already engaged in carrying on *Iron Works*. *Hemp*, from the Incouragement given, I am told, is raised in much greater Quantities ; But the first of these requiring a large Stock, and the other very fertile or enriched Land, which may disabe poorer Families from partaking of their Benefits, Providence seems now to have pointed out one Method more, for Employing even the mean and weak, as well as others of both Sexes, to considerable Advantage, by raising *Silk* ; which (as I am credibly informed) is produced here, as fine and good, as most the World affords, and with as much Ease : These three are Commodities for which *Britain* pays dear to other Countries, and with which there can be no Danger of overstocking the Market : therefore as nothing can be more acceptable to *Britain*, than to receive from it's own Colonies, what it purchases more disadvantageously from Foreigners, nothing perhaps may better deserve the Notice and Encouragement of the Legislature.

These, *Gentlemen*, are the Heads I shall at present mention : What further occurs may be sent to you by Messages. I shall only here observe that from the Views I have yet had of this Province, it appears very plain, that we are, or may be, a very happy People ; if we can but act worthy of those Blessings, which seem to have attended the pious and sincere Intentions of the late Honourable Proprietor, and those sober good People who have joyned their Endeavour's in the Settlement of this Colony. A grateful and humble Sense of those Mercies from the bountiful Hand of Divine Providence, under the mild Influence of a most benign and gracious Sovereign, and the favour of indulgent Proprietors, are the only Methods of securing their Continuance. And a steddy Resolution in you, *Gentlemen*, to advance the true and solid Interest of the Country, and Reputation of the Government, by establishing Justice and Sobriety ; will be the most effectual Means of disappointing those, who by fomenting vain and idle Jealousies, might seek to disturb our Repose. In all which, and whatever may tend to the Honour and Benefit of the Publick, you shall always have my very ready Concurrence.



P. GORDON.

To the Honourable PATRICK GORDON, Esq; Lieutenant Governour of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA, &c.

The Address of the House of Representatives of the Freemen of the said Province, in General Assembly met at Philadelphia, the 23d of November, 1626. In Answer to the Governours Speech of Yesterday.

May it please the Governour;
WE do thankfully acknowledge the Governours favourable Disposition, towards promoting the Happiness and Prosperity of this Province, by first laying before this House, what seems to be Essentially Necessary for that good End, and then promising Heartily to concur with us, in whatsoever can be reasonably proposed to Effect the same.

We unanimously concur in Opinion with the Governour, that considering the Impressions, which seem to have been made with the Lords Commissioners of Trade, concerning a Paper-Currency in the Plantations, it will require our serious Application to find out proper Measures for securing their Lordships Favour, in Supporting the Act pass'd last Year, for re Emitting a part of our present Bills, and in Order thereto, we have appointed a Committee to draw up an Humble Representation from this House, unto that Honourable Board. And as the Governour is pleased justly to observe, when their Lordships come to be apprized, That the Trade between Great-Britain and this Province, has been manifestly Increased since the Establishment of our Paper-Currency; That there has been more Goods Imported, and more Ships Built in this Place for a British Account, than ever was known at any Time before; But more especially that this Currency, instead of sinking, has actually rose considerably in it's Value, since the passing of the said re-emitting Act: We humbly Hope, and have no room to Doubt, but that their Lordships will abate in their Opinions of the ill consequences of that Currency, especially in this Colony.

It is with great pleasure, that we observe the Attention which the Governour has been pleased to give the Improvements, which may be made of the Produce of Iron, Hemp and Silk, in this Province, and from the justness of the Governour's Expression, and way of thinking on those Subjects, with respect to Britain, We cannot but promise to our selves on all proper Occasions, very happy Effects from the Governour's Influence and kind Assistance.

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We do in a Dutifl manner acknowledge the Sense, which all the People of this Province ought to have, and Constantly express, of those Blessings which seem to have attended the pious and sincere Intentions of the late Honourable Proprietor, and those sober good People, who joyned their Endeavours with Him, in the Settlement of this Colony: And we hope that our humble Endeavours shall never be wanting, to secure a Continuance of those Mercies from the Divine Hand of Providence, by a Conduct which may enable us to preserve that reasonable Share of Happiness, we enjoy under the mild Influences of our most benign and gracious Sovereign King GEORGE, and the indulgent Favours we hope still to receive from the Honourable Proprietor's Family.

We very heartily thank the Governour, for the Assurance he gives us to concur with this House in promoting the true solid Interest and Reputation of this Province, and in Establishing Justice and Sobriety, as the proper means to disappoint those who shall appear to be Enemies to the Publick Repose and Tranquility: And in Return we lay hold of this opportunity to assure the Governour, that we shall be mindful of his Interest, by providing in due Time a Just and Honourable Support for his Government.

Signed by Order of the House, this
23d Day of 9th Month, 1726.

David Lloyd Speaker.

The Governour's Answer.

Gentlemen ;
I Return You my hearty Thanks for this respectful Address, and the House may be assured, that my Words and Actions shall always agree, and that I will at all Times use my own particular Interest for the Service of this Province.

BY Virtue of an Order of the General Assembly, I do appoint Andrew Bradford to Print this Speech and Address.

David Lloyd Speaker.

Philadelphia : Printed by Andrew Bradford Printen to the Province.



